

REMARKS

By this Amendment the specification has been amended to overcome the errors noted by the examiner, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the removable jacket liner can be used as a garment by itself, claims 2 and 3 have been revised, claim 6 has been made dependent on claim 4, claim 10 has been amended to replace "Velcro®" with "hook and loop", and new claim 11 has been added to alternatively define the invention (combination of original claims 1 and 2). Entry is requested.

The examiner should note the concurrently filed Letter Re Drawings.

In the outstanding office Action, the examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge in view of Gershman. He asserts that, based on Gershman, it would be obvious to replace the hook and loop fasteners 52, 54 in Aldridge with zipper fasteners. This rejection must be withdrawn.

Aldridge discloses a firefighter jacket which includes a outer shell 18 that can be closed by closure elements 72, 76 and an inner liner 38 which can be attached to the outer shell by hook and loop fasteners 52, 54. The inner liner includes a moisture barrier 44 and a thermal barrier 42 which are sewn together at their peripheries. The hook and loop fasteners 54 are attached to the sides of respective flaps 56, 58 opposite the side facing a wearer of the jacket, thus preventing the fasteners from contacting the wearer.

Claim 1 of the present invention define second and fourth zipper halves on the front panels of the rescue coat for interengagement with fifth and sixth zipper halves on the removable jacket liner.

Gershman discloses a new nylon tape for medical applications which includes two sections, one having microscopic hooks and the other having microscopic loops, the two sections connecting to one another with modest applied pressure. This method of connection is stated to be in lieu of zippers, buttons, snaps, adhesive tape, etc.

The examiner asserts that, based on Gershman, it would be obvious to replace the hook and loop fasteners 52, 54 in Aldridge with zipper fasteners. However, the examiner has provided no basis to conclude that such fasteners would still be covered on an inside by material strips (as defined in applicant's claim 1), or that the liner thus provided could be removed and used as a garment itself.

The examiner's rejection against claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge in view of Grilliot. The examiner states that, in view of Grilliot, it would be obvious to stitch an inner layer to the outer shell of Aldridge. This rejection must be withdrawn.

Grilliot discloses a protective garment which includes an outer shell 20 having an outer layer 20 with reflective trim thereon and an inner layer 80 sewn thereto which is dark or black to provide low visibility

The applicant asserts that there is absolutely no "teaching" in Grilliot which would suggest disconnecting the liner layers 44, 42 of Aldridge and sewing the layer 44 to the outer shell 18, *i.e.*, so that the side edges thereof would be sewn together.

The examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 6 must be withdrawn.

The examiner has rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge in view of Gershman and Chang.

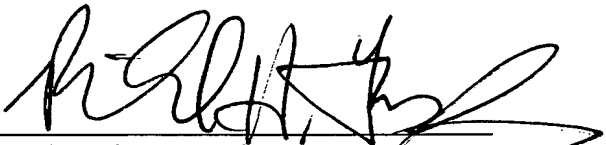
However, Chang cannot be said to overcome the basic deficiencies in the examiner's rejection of claim 1, so these claims should also be allowable.

Favorable reevaluation is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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